

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 EUR-12 EB-08
COME-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 MCE-00 PC-01 /109 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:KPGARLAND:SM X23355

APPROVED BY AF/E:GRBEYER

NEA/IRN:HPRECHT(SUBS)

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O 042200Z AUG 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 197604

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, US, ET

SUBJECT: REPLY TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S ATTACKS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 3407

1. YOU SHOULD APPROACH APPROPRIATE MOFA OFFICER AND
IN TONE SUGGESTED REFTEL DENY ACCUSATIONS OF FOREIGN
MINISTER.

2. YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR TALKING
POINTS:

-- THERE ARE CURRENTLY 40,000 AMERICANS IN IRAN INCLUDING
DEPENDENTS. THEY ARE ENGAGED IN A VARIETY OF PURSUITS,
MAINLY CIVILIAN CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL WHO ARE EMPLOYEES
OF AMERICAN COMPANIES.

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-- THERE ARE ONLY 1400 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PERSONNEL IN
IRAN. THEY ARE PROHIBITED BY LAW -- AS ARE CIVILIAN
CONTRACTORS -- FROM ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT SUPPORT OF
COMBAT OPERATIONS.

-- NEITHER IRANIAN NOR SAUDI GOVERNMENTS ARE PERMITTED TO

TRANSFER ANY US ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT WITHOUT OUR

AGREEMENT. U.S. WOULD NOT AUTHORIZE SUCH TRANSFER
OUTSIDE IRAN OR SAUDI ARABIA TO THIRD PARTY TO WHICH
US ITSELF IS UNWILLING TO MAKE TRANSFERS OF US ARMS.

-- THERE ARE ABOUT 33,000 AMERICANS IN SAUDI ARABIA.
ABOUT 1000 ARE DOD EMPLOYEES. MOST OF THE REST ARE
CIVILIAN CONTRACTORS SIMILAR TO THOSE IN IRAN AND UNDER
SIMILAR RESTRAINTS.

-- SAUDIS PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN PROMOTING MODERATE ARAB
CONSENSUS. SAUDI ARABIA NEEDS AN ADEQUATE AIR DEFENSE
SYSTEM TO PROTECT ITS VAST TERRITORY, INCLUDING WIDELY
SCATTERED POPULATION CENTERS AND VULNERABLE AIR
FACILITIES.

-- SAUDI ARABIA, WHOSE ARMED FORCES ARE AMONG THE SMALLEST
IN THE REGION, HAS HAD A LONG HISTORY OF IDEOLOGICAL
CONFLICT WITH IRAQ. IRAQI FORCES ARE WELL-EQUIPPED WITH
MODERN SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND WILL HAVE MORE THAN
TWICE THE NUMBER OF COMBAT AIRCRAFT AS SAUDIS EVEN
AFTER F-15'S ARE DELIVERED.

-- SAUDIS HAVE BEEN ATTACKED ON 3 OCCASIONS IN RECENT
PAST BY FORCES FROM SOUTH YEMEN. THE POTENTIAL THREAT
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FROM THIS QUARTER IS A MATTER OF CONTINUING SAUDI
CONCERN.

-- WE ARE ASSURED BY SAUDIS THAT THEY INTEND TO USE THE
F-15 AIRCRAFT FOR THEIR OWN NATIONAL DEFENSE. VANCE

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